



DHS Today via E-Mail

MARCH 5 2004

National Report Praises Arkansas Healthcare Practices

A report highlighted in the February issue of *Governing* Magazine cites Arkansas as a pioneer in the field of long-term care. The report that assessed healthcare in all 50 states places DHS' "Cash and Counseling" program at the forefront of long term care alternatives. DHS' Division of Aging and Adult Services administers the program which allows participants to choose the services that best meets their needs while keeping them in their community.



"Often when you look at state-to-state comparisons about things that related to the wealth of a state, Arkansas doesn't do so well," said Katherine Barrett, co-author of the special issue of *Governing*. "The state may not be able to outspend others, but at least it's trying to optimize the dollars it does spend." The report also highlights the state's use of home and community based services and technology as effective targeted spending during a time when states are facing fiscal crisis. Authors of the report praise the Department's commitment to maximizing limited resources and innovating ways to save public dollars while meeting the needs of an ever-changing client base. According to a *Governing* news release, the "analysis of state-funded health care is part of the Government Performance Project, a six-year old effort, to evaluate a wide range of state government management and policy functions."

Martin Luther King Day Celebration

Employees at the Arkansas State Hospital were served two delicious cakes provided by Henry Akins and Morrison Foods to celebrate Dr. King's birthday on Friday, January 15. This was sponsored by the Cultural Diversity Department to mark King's birthday. Cake was served in the ASH Lobby for about an hour.

Two Division employees, Billy Burris and Deborah Dunn participated in the "Increase the Peace Day" sponsored by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission. Burris and Dunn volunteered to speak on behalf of the King Commission at two local schools in the area explaining and promoting King's "Six Principles of Non-Violence." Burris spoke at Horace Mann Junior High School and Dunn spoke at Bale Elementary.



Participants are needed for the 2004 Heart Walk

The American Heart Walk is a non-competitive event focusing on exercise as an important component of a heart-healthy lifestyle while raising money to support medical research and educational programs of the American Heart Association. Through the **American Heart Walk**, Arkansans are educated on the risk factors of cardiovascular diseases and what measures of prevention can be taken. Participants include individuals, families and corporate teams that raise flat donations for walking the route and are eligible to earn prizes based on the amount of donations collected. Special awards are given to participants and company teams recognizing outstanding fundraising efforts. Prizes, snacks, music, team photos and free health screenings are all a part of the popularity of this event.

- **Event Schedule & Location :**
Saturday, April 24, 2004, North Shore River Walk, North Little Rock, 3 miles

Please join the DHS Heart Walk Team by contacting Ruby Shackelford with the Division of Youth at 501-683-2674 or by going to the Website: walk.americanheart.org and look for the DHS Team. ♥

WALKING FOR DIABETES

Help raise funds to find a cure for diabetes and to provide education to prevent and manage diabetes. America's Walk for Diabetes is a 3-mile walk along the Arkansas River at Murray Park. It's a great opportunity to exercise, raise money for an important cause, and walk in solidarity with the 235,000 Arkansans who live with diabetes. Enjoy a light breakfast, an inspiring kick-off rally, a beautiful walking route, and activities and entertainment for the whole family. Learn more about your own health and fitness level at the American Diabetes Association's first annual health fair. We'll see you there!

Distance: 3 miles

Check-In: 8:00 AM

Start: 9:00 AM

Date: March 27, 2004

Location: Murray Park Pavilion and Beach Volleyball Area

For more information call: 1-888-DIABETES

Brown Bag Luncheon Schedule- New Donaghey Plaza South Building, Conference Rooms A & B, 7th & Main

- **Monday, March 8th – Gift Baskets for All Occasions - Mary Mitchell-Davis, DYS**
- **Monday, March 22nd – S P A M - Richard Wyatt, Office of Systems and Technology**



Changes/Transitions

Sonya Owens, Division of County Operations, is the new **Prairie County Administrator**.

Yvonne Case, Division of County Operations, is the new **Franklin County Administrator**. She will begin her position on Monday, March 8th.

Cecile Blucker, Division of Children and Family Services, is the new **Chief Fiscal Officer** (Assistant Director of Finance and Administrative Support).

Judy Adams has been selected as **Superintendent** for the **Southeast Arkansas Human Development Center** in Warren. Adams will officially begin her position as superintendent on March 14, 2004.

Did you know that?....

The Department of Human Services and the Division of Volunteerism (DOV) sponsor the Volunteer Activities Council (VAC). VAC is composed of representatives from each division that meet on the third Wednesday of each month. Members of VAC may be eligible for a scholarship toward obtaining a Certified Volunteer Manager (CVM) certification sponsored by the Arkansas Public Administration Consortium (APAC) and DOV. Following are a few of the programs sponsored by VAC: Coats For Kids, Reading Day, Shadow Day, American Cross Blood Drive, United Way Campaign, March of Dimes Heart Walk, American Heart Walk, Make a Difference Day, Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, and MDA Cool and Casual Day.



SPOTLIGHT ON

Sevier County DHS



The Sevier County DHS staff supported the Heart Association week by wearing red on Friday February 6, 2004. They took time to pose for a picture in the front lobby beside the Valentine Tree that is decorated for each holiday. Go "*Red for Women*" was the American Heart Association's national call for women to take charge of their health and live stronger, healthier lives. ourselves. With awareness being the first step, staff decided to participate as a show of support for all women who have been touched by heart disease.



Do you have something you'd like to share in the newsletter? Send e-mail to Julie.Munsell@mail.state.ar.us or Ingrid.Green@mail.state.ar.us. Send a fax to (501) 682-6836 or call (501) 682-8650.